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at length in a future number. A work by Ubicini on the Turkish Empire, translated by Mrs. Easthope, has recently been published in London. It is described as very able.

4. — *Nouvelle Biographie Universelle, Depuis les Temps les plus Reculés jusqu'à nos Jours, avec les Renseignements Bibliographiques, et l'Indication des Sources à consulter.* Sous la Direction de M. le DR. HOEFER. Paris: Firmin Didot Frères.

NONE of the great literary enterprises which Messrs. Didot have undertaken is more praiseworthy or more difficult than this of a Universal Biography. The work has been done more thoroughly in France than in any other nation; but the number and cost of the long series of volumes of the old *Biographie Universelle* prevent most persons from easy access to them. The present series is a marvel of cheapness, and, were its defects tenfold greater than they are, would still be worth more than it costs. The volumes, containing each nearly a thousand octavo pages, in double columns, in small, clear type and on excellent paper, are furnished in Boston at the incredibly low price of *seventy-five cents*. They appear once in two months. The prospect now is, that, if the publishers fulfil their promise, about half of the work will be *given* to the subscribers, since, instead of the thirty-two volumes designated as the maximum, we are likely to have *sixty*, if the work goes on as it has begun. *Fifteen* volumes have been published without finishing the first five letters of the alphabet. All beyond thirty-two volumes is to be delivered gratuitously.

A work of this kind, of course, requires more research and ingenuity in compilation and condensation, than original ability in its writers. Its writers, however, are numerous and eminent. Besides the editor, Dr. Hoefer, we have several of the most distinguished of the staff of the Imperial Library, and many well-known professors, scholars, and members of the French Institute. Villemain and De Barante head the list. Isambert, Breton, and Leblanc have contributed many fine sketches. From the cursory examination we have been able to make of the fifteen volumes, we may pronounce the literary execution excellent, and the comprehensive plan well carried out. The whole family of "Adam," from the first man down to the late engraver of the Vienna Bible, receive due and respectful notice. More is said about "Cain" than strict justice would require, and the prophecy about Cassius M. Clay, that he will doubtless be *President of the United*

States, if the Free-Soilers get power, is rather extravagant. The French department of the work and the mediæval department are exceedingly thorough, the ancient Greek and Roman reasonably so, and there is no ground for complaint that injustice is done to the Orientals. The poorest portion of the work is the American, — poor both in the number and in the selection of names. Emerson, for instance, is not mentioned at all, nor Dana, while we have notices not only, as is just, of William C. Bryant, but of his brother, John Howard Bryant, scarcely known to fame. John Quincy Adams and Channing have less than a column each, while to Brigham Young (or “Brigham le Jeune,” as the writer amusingly calls him) are given more than sixteen columns. Senator Clayton of *Maryland* is eulogized, but no hint is given of the existence of Senator Benton of Missouri. The only *Beecher* whose life is sketched is “Madame Harriet Beecher Stowe,” in the account of whom are found several of those indispensable blunders which mark all French writing about Americans. We are told that Cincinnati is a “city on the borders of Kentucky and Virginia.” A mysterious personage, the “Juge Seel Parker,” is mentioned. Her book is called *Uncle Tum's Cabin*. The sources of information concerning America and its people are fewer and less valuable than concerning any other country.

There are some omissions, too, in the English department which are rather unaccountable, and sometimes references are given which mislead rather than aid. But, on the whole, the enterprise thus far must be considered as greatly successful. It is a work which ought to be, according to the common phrase, “in every gentleman's library.”

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5. — *The History and Antiquities of Boston, the Capital of Massachusetts and Metropolis of New England, from its Settlement in 1630, to the Year 1770. Also, an Introductory History of the Discovery and Settlement of New England. With Notes, Critical and Illustrative.* By SAMUEL G. DRAKE, A. M. Boston: Luther Stevens. 1856. 8vo. pp. 840.

ALTHOUGH the recent publication of the closing number of this History precludes more than an outline of a review, we esteem it of too much importance to omit all notice of its appearance. For several years it has been a matter of regret, that there was extant no history of our city worthy of notice when compared with the volumes which filial pride had called forth in the neighboring towns. Within a score